

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 14 have been objected to in the Office Action. The claims have been amended accordingly.

Claims 1-14 have been rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. The claims have been amended to improve clarity. It is noted, however, route-specific information refers to a destination network node assigned to the route leading to the respective destination network node.

Claims 1-14 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated¹ by Spiegel (U.S. Patent No. 5,649,108). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

In the claimed invention, advantageously, a message created by one connection, can be transmitted significantly quicker than in Spiegel. This allows determination of the respective routes to all possible destination network nodes prior to transmitting the setup message to the network nodes and to establish an allocation rule for each of these routes. At the same time, each network node receives its own allocation rule. Each network node's allocation rule assigns to each possible destination network node respective forwarding information to a link leading to direction of the relevant destination network node and new (second) forwarding information.

The allocation rules established in the network nodes allow a setup message to be transmitted very quickly because when it receives a setup message, a network node doesn't have to first decide by means of several criteria, like Spiegel does, via which link the setup message is to be forwarded. Rather, this link can derive its allocation rule directly from the forwarding information included in the setup message.

In Spiegel, on the other hand, a setup message is forwarded by means of a routing algorithm, by which routing table 13 is scanned after the shortest or most inexpensive path is entered (see column 6, lines 9-15 and 50-56). However, Spiegel fails to disclose that routing table 13, used to forward setup messages, has an allocation rule that was established prior to the setup

messages being transmitted, by which forwarding information (that exists for that destination node) is assigned a link leading to this destination node and new (second) forwarding information. Nor does Spiegel suggest such an assignment, arranged in advance, of the continuing link to the routing table. Rather, Spiegel only decides (by means of a cost criterion) via which link this setup message is to be forwarded after a setup message to a network node is received. The search of routing table 13 (see column 6, lines 50-56), made necessary by the lack of pre-assignment of a link, is relatively time-consuming, and transmitting the setup message by Spiegel is substantially more time-consuming.

Routing table 13 is not to be confused with forwarding table 20, which is established or updated only after a setup message is received. Forwarding table 20 does not help forward the setup message, but only assists in forwarding the reference data to be transmitted after the setup message as part of an established connection (see column 6, lines 23-36: "Once an output port has been chosen for a setup packet... the switch controller updates the forwarding table of that line interface, so that cells can subsequently be routed..."). In contrast to the claimed invention, as recited for example in claims 1 and 14, the allocation rules in all network nodes are established before transmission starts so that the allocation rules established can already be used to quickly forward the setup message itself. Thus, forwarding tables 20, disclosed by Spiegel, can never be identified with the allocation rules of the claimed invention because forwarding tables are not used to transmit setup messages (by means of forwarding information contained therein), but are only established by the setup messages.

Additionally, Spiegel fails to disclose that (first) forwarding information is derived from a setup message that is assigned both a continuing link and new (second) forwarding information by an allocation rule already established before the setup message is transmitted. Nor does Spiegel disclose that the (first) forwarding information thus derived is replaced by this new (second) forwarding information (assigned to the (first) forwarding information by allocation rule) prior to

¹ We note that the Examiner states "unpatentable" rather than "anticipated." For purposes of this response, we assume this to be a typographical error in light of the rejection under 35 USC 102(b).

the setup message being sent. In other words, that the new (second) forwarding information assumes the role of the (first) forwarding information with regard to the forwarded setup message.

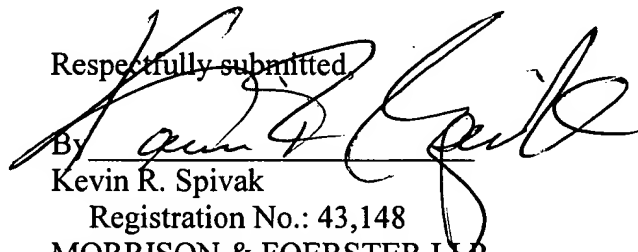
Since the recited structure and method are not disclosed by the applied prior art, claims 1 and 14 are patentable. Claims 2-13, depending either directly or indirectly from claim 1, are similarly patentable.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no.449122002600. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

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Respectfully submitted,

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